



Justice Reinvestment Oversight Board

Location: Remote Meeting

Date: April 22, 2021

Time: 1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

Meeting Minutes:

I. Call to Order

II. Agency Updates

- Administrative Office of the Courts - Chief Judge Morrissey and Judge Cox
 - 90% compliant with caps for technical violations
 - In phase 4 about to go to phase 5 in District Court. Only difference is Jury trials in Circuit Court
 - Proceeding on all case types, but social distancing requirements have us moving slower than prior to the pandemic.
 - Remote hearings have helped us. We've likely done well over 100,000 virtual hearings.
 - Most of the judiciary staff have been vaccinated
 - In Circuit Court, focus has been on resumption of jury trials which varies because of different physical environments and social distancing requirements in each jurisdiction.
 - Despite the best efforts of everyone there is a large backlog of cases. Working to prioritize cases of people who have been detained for a long period of time.
- Local Detention Centers - Major T.D. Reece
 - Uptick in population, may be near overcrowding in some places due to quarantine units and other mitigation measures taking up space.
 - We have been receiving a lot of questions regarding work release - will take a while before this is back up and running since we cannot yet have people coming in and out of facilities.
 - We have also been hearing that pretrial grants are not being renewed to support staff.
 - Sec. Green - grants came out of GOCOPYVS.
 - Many years ago DPP began assisting courts and local jurisdictions with pretrial services. However we do not have statutory authority to do this and we are focused on post-conviction work.
 - We won't be able to continue this work but we will be working with our partners on a smooth transition as this is a local function.
 - Many pretrial programs are limited to non-violent offenses. Due to all of the changes during the past several years, more of the population has violent offenses. This is a big hole for pretrial services and a place where it makes sense to expand services.
 - Private home detention is another area where we do not have much information

- DPSCS does not have authority over private detention companies, however we have our own service
 - Gathering information may be a challenge due to variations between jurisdictions.
- Dir. Fueston - our office will follow up with everyone regarding the funding
- Governor's Office of Crime Prevention, Youth, and Victim Services - Director Glenn Fueston
 - During Session, the legislature, working with Lt. Governor, drafted and passed HB1280 which creates the Maryland Behavioral Health and Public Safety Center of Excellence. This Center will strive to develop practices and policies which look to divert those with mental health issues from the criminal justice system.
 - These new centers will build upon our existing work in this space, including our great interagency partnership supporting the implementation of Medication Assisted Treatment in detention centers and the growth of diversion programs.
 - Our office has been working to expand the use of police-led diversion in Maryland as a way to entirely avoid unnecessary criminal justice involvement through rapid referral to behavioral healthcare and social service support in lieu of charging and prosecution. We are now supporting 10 sites across the state with 6 in the planning stage and 4 fully operational. By the end of the summer, I hope to share news of several sites launching and beginning to provide services.
 - Regarding the Performance Incentive Grant Fund:
 - We have granted extensions through June 30, 2021 for our current FY 20 grantees.
 - We are also working on the next round of grants and hope to have a Notice of Funding posted in the next few weeks. Per the Justice Reinvestment Act, the funding is split evenly between 'state' and 'local' level awards.
 - We will share the notice as soon as it's live and will ask each of you to assist in sharing and promoting this opportunity with local partners.
 - Finally, the law requires the Oversight Board to make funding recommendations to me, the Executive Director. Therefore we will be asking board members and their designees to participate in a review committee. We will be following up after this meeting to identify participants. Due to the volume of applications we anticipate, it is important that all of our board members, with the exception of the judiciary, participate.
 - Daniel presenting data updates - please see attached presentation
 - Regarding the decline in the prison population, how will this impact reinvestment?
 - We will continue to monitor this and update everyone but we do expect a growing reinvestment budget.
 - Current population is at an artificial low due to the pandemic so the number will likely fluctuate.
 - Expungement Workgroup
 - Meeting on April 26 and our agenda will include a presentation from providers and individuals who have gone through the expungement process as well as a legislative debrief.

- The road ahead will involve more detailed discussion on the implications of new laws and a continued focus on technical challenges and alternative solutions to limit public access to records.
- Restitution Workgroup
 - Continuing to explore ways to improve the collections process and have been receiving technical assistance from the Restitution Resource Center at the Council of State Governments.
 - A key area of focus is supporting DPP agents and working to improve feedback loops between agents, the courts, victims and other stakeholders regarding restitution. We are also continuing to explore enhanced collaboration with CCU.
 - An overriding need is for technology and staffing enhancements and we are working to develop a detailed plan and timeline to implement needed changes.
- Maryland Department of Health - Replacing John Robison is Paula Langmead, Secretary Schrader's designee. Paula is the CEO of Springfield Hospital Center and the Acting Chief of Hospitals.
 - Between January 1 and March 31: 173 8505 evaluations completed, 77 8507 treatment placements with a 15.5 day cycle time.
 - Pandemic has set number back, this isn't representative but working to try to come to new agreements so we can increase movements of populations
 - How long is person in placement?
 - Varies greatly as many people come because there is no where else to put them, for example, average length of stay increased because of the pandemic
 - Our patients have been willing to get vaccinated, more so than staff

III. Opioid Operational Command Center Update - Robin Rickard and Marianne Gibson

- The OCCC just released their 2020 annual report which shows a tragic increase in overdose deaths during an already challenging year. This report and their efforts should inspire renewed urgency on all of our part to end the opioid epidemic
- See attached presentation

IV. Legislative Update - Delegate Dumais

- Very interesting session, a lot was accomplished, done despite covid.
- The Senate met as a body in the statehouse with social distancing and plexiglass. House was divided because it has too many members to socially distance, half were in annex and we used technology.
- No covid outbreaks. Buildings were closed and everything done virtually.
 - Public access was a lot easier in many ways, no need to come to Annapolis.
 - Floor sessions and voting all live streamed
 - Technology and improved access was helpful, hopefully we can keep some of the stuff that worked
 - Main downside was losing a lot of interaction and informal discussions

- Major legislation in 3 key areas - Covid relief, landlord /tenant issues, and Police reform - dramatic changes but with time for implementation and tweaks likely in the future. Police discipline doesn't go into effect until July 2022.

V. Good of the Order & Adjournment